MR. P. M. VARUGHESE: Was there a Gazette notification last month inviting applicants for the post?

DR. S. JOHN: Yes.

MR. P. M. VARUGHESE: Was the appointment made after the Gazette notification?

DR. S. JOHN: It was made long ago.

PRESIDENT There was an optician who was functioning in the ophthalmic hospital for years. Recently certain representations were made that it was becoming a kind of monopoly and they were asking that other people should also have a chance. Therefore a notification was published and we are waiting to see what response would come.

Doctors volunteering in the Medical department.

343 *MR. P. S. GOPALA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of doctors volunteering in the Medical department;

(*b*) their names and qualifications:

(*c*) the number of years they are volunteering; and

(*d*) the amount spent as honorarium?

DR. S. JOHN: (*a*) Three.

(*b*) 1. Mrs. E. Chandy, L. S. M. F.
2. Miss. A. Joseph, L. S. M. F.
3. Mrs. Thressiamma Verghese, L. M. P.

(*c*) Number 1 has been volunteering for more than two years and numbers 2 and 3 have not completed one year of volunteering;

(*d*) Volunteers are not paid any honorarium.

Construction of a bridge at Punnackal Chungom.

344 *MR. K. VARGHESE ITHAC: Will the Government be pleased to state.

(*a*) whether the Government are aware of the intense traffic across the Punnackal Chungom ferry (S. E. Boundary of Kottayam town); and

(*b*) whether they are aware that with the completion of Muttambalam paper mills the traffic over the ferry will become much more intense?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

Ranni-Valayath du bridge

345 *MR. K. A. MATHEW: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) when was the first estimate for constructing Ranni-Valayathodu bridge prepared and what was the estimated amount;

(*b*) when was the estimate prepared last and what was the amount;

(*c*) how many times the estimates were revised between the first estimate and the last estimate; and

(*d*) the reasons for putting off the construction of the bridge

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